STAFF **NEWS**

FEBRUARY 1977

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD last year met in 180 sessions for a total of 372 hours. These included 169 formal meetings, four informal sessions, six currency consultations and one seminar, according to a tabulation produced by the Secretary's Department. For the first time since 1973, the number of Board sessions and the hours spent in session declined from the previous year. During 1976, the Board spent more time on country items than in 1975, but considerably less on policy matters; during 1975 the Board had been actively involved in drafting the second amendment to the Articles of Agreement, as well as important policy issues concerning the oil facility, the extended Fund facility and the compensatory financing facility. A total of 207 country items took up 38 per cent of the Board's time in 1976, or 141 hours, compared with 23 per cent, or 113 hours, in 1975. Policy matters, on the other hand, took up half the Board's time in 1976, or more than 185 hours, compared with 67 per cent of its time, or over 330 hours, in 1975. In addition, in 1976 the Interim Committee held six sessions, covering some 20 hours and the Joint Development Committee five sessions, lasting some 12.5 hours; Executive Directors attended all these meetings. Many Executive Directors also took part in the four sessions of the Group of 24 Ministers in 1976 and the three sessions of the Deputies of the Group. Executive Directors also met 22 times in committees of the Board and some took part in the four meetings of the Fund Pension Committee. (The photograph above shows the new Board this year).

Of policy matters discussed by the Board in 1976, the most time, over 56 hours, was again devoted to the proposed Second Amendment, as the finishing touches were put to this significant reform. Gold sales and related matters occupied 50 hours of the Board's time; Fund resources and activities almost 20 hours; the trust fund 17 hours and the subject of SDRs 12 hours. The discussion of the Annual Report took up 25.5 hours, roughly the same as in 1975; while administrative matters - including the budget, salaries and benefits, resident representative and advisor posts, and other subjects - occupied 20 hours, or about five per cent of the Board's time.

THE GARUDA BIRD, some eight feet tall and weighing nearly half a ton, which was installed in a prominent position in the Atrium on February 17, is the imposing gift of the Bank of Indonesia to the Fund. The Garuda plays an important role in the Ramayana, the great Hindu epic, and is regarded throughout Indonesia as a benevolent spirit, for despite its fearsome and well-fanged appearance, the Garuda has a warm heart and is renowned for helping those in trouble. "He is a fierce but friendly creature", says Hubert Neiss, Division Chief in the Asian Department, who served as Resident Representative in Indo-

nesia. The Bank of Indonesia decided to make its gift following the Managing Director's visit to the country, which took place in November 1974. Three Garudas were ordered - for the Fund, the World Bank (where it has been installed just across the street from its companion), and the Asian Development Bank. They were carved on the Hindu island of Bali by Indonesia's most skilled woodcarvers, a long and difficult task which took some two years. Garudas come in many variations - one regularly takes wing as the symbol of Indonesian Airlines - but the one given to the Fund is, Mr. Neiss comments, "an outstanding example" of the woodcarvers' art.

EVERY FUND MISSION HAS ITS SURPRISES, its high points and its low. But it is often these unexpected incidents which break the routine and add spice to overseas travel that make a particular mission memorable. This was especially true in the case of the recent mission to Vietnam, which encountered some unforeseen excitement on its way back through Laos. Following a week in Vietnam, the team, consisting of Paul Chabrier, Ulrich Baumgartner, Hans Roden and Jean-Pierre Gollé, took the Air Viet Nam flight from Hanoi to Vientiane in Laos, intending to leave on a Thai Airlines flight from Bangkok the next day. "However", Mr. Gollé writes, "fate had decided to provide us with some unanticipated diversions which, though they seemed frustrating at the time, are now recalled with delight. Once we had cleared customs in Vientiane, we were told that two days later Laos would celebrate the first anniversary of the Republic and that its borders with its neighbors, as well as the airport, would be closed for four days, effective immediately. And so began the saga which became the 'ferry' tale of the Mekong River.

"At the time, with confusion prevailing at the airport, the only sensible way out of Laos seemed to be to cross the Mekong River at Nong Khai, about 20 miles south of Vientiane, on the border between Laos and Thailand. We all rushed to the car of a Pakistani who was waiting for us (courtesy of Japan Air Lines!), threw ourselves in his car and raced through Vientiane and the countryside to the border point. There, Messrs. Chabrier and Roden tried to persuade the Pathet Lao that they should let us cross the Mekong on the ferry. At first, even our U.N. laisser-passer did not impress the Pathet Lao, who argued that nobody was permitted to cross the border. After much discussion, it seemed that we could go down to the little boat, which was bobbing on the water some 60 feet and 100 steps below. We accordingly rushed down the narrow stairs, hoping we would not stumble with our heavy suitcases and reach the Mekong head first. When we reached the boat, the Pathet Lao again stopped us; they had not cancelled our visas! Back up we climbed, still clutching our suitcases; the Pathet Lao carefully scrutinized our laisser-passer. After more waiting, our laisser-passer were restored to us, with the exit visas cancelled. Very happy, we all went down the stairs again with our suitcases, still afraid that we might slip and take an unintended swim in the Mekong River.

"Our small group - the four of us, plus two Swedes who had joined us, one of whom was a diplomat - pushed off from the Laotian side of the river in the general direction of Nong Khai in Thailand. The boat, which was about 20 feet long, was under the command of a Lao and was propelled by a little engine. As we chugged across the river, we were already eagerly making our plans to travel from Nong Khai to Bangkok by train - a 12-hour night journey. But fate had once more prepared a surprise for us.

"While we were still some 300 yards from the Thai bank, we saw a large number of people gathered at the pier, waving their arms and shouting. At first we thought that the Thai people were welcoming us to their country, but as we came closer it then became apparent that, in fact, for some reason they were shouting to us to turn around. Our pilot promptly turned the boat around and we came no closer to Thailand than five meters. By the time we realized what had happened, we were already heading back to Laos. The Swedish diplomat was shouting at our boatman in Lao, telling him to turn back so we could at least talk to the Thais. He replied that if he landed he would be put in jail. Also he argued we could be shot at by the Thais who might not at a distance realize that we were from the renowned IMF. You can imagine our frustration. We were not only heading back to Laos, but this time our visas had been cancelled. There we were, stuck on the Mekong River midway between Laos and Thailand, rejected by the Thais and without visas for Laos.

"When we reached the Laos side, our boatman jumped out and promptly disappeared into the bush. We decided to stay with our luggage in the boat, while our new friend the Swedish diplomat tried to convince the Pathet Lao to tell the boatman to take us back to Nong Khai at least to talk to the Thais. He failed. We therefore resolved to hijack a boat which had just arrived with about 10,000 chickens which had been imported from Thailand. We quickly put our luggage into this second boat and tried to convince its pilot to take us to Thailand. Our logic was simple. If he could import so many thousands of chickens to Laos, he could at least export four marooned IMF staff members in the other direction. But there again we were unlucky. Nothing could be done. Having temporarily lost faith in our good luck, we once again slowly climbed up the 100 steps which we had come to know all too well. Up above, the Pathet Lao took pity on us and let us in without visas. Our Pakistani driver had already departed, since he thought we were already in Thailand, so we had to search for another car to take us back to Vientiane. Back at the hotel, we set to work to devise other ways to leave the country. But then an unexpected deliverance came. The next day the airport was reopened and we were able to resume our interrupted flight to Bangkok.

"The moral of the 'ferry' tale: On the Mekong River, 10,000 chickens are worth more than four IMF staff members!"

ALTHOUGH THE MOVE LAST APRIL to new and in some respects less accessible premises in the Bender Building inevitably caused some disruption to the activities of the Joint Library, the use of its facilities in 1976 was at nearly the same high level as in 1975, according to Charles Olsen, Librarian. Books loaned from the Library in 1976 totalled more than 30,000, compared with some 34,000 in 1975. Reference inquiries received by the Library were more than 37,000, roughly the same as in the previous year; and there was little change in the volume of periodical loans and loans to and from other libraries. Library acquisitions through purchases, gifts or exchanges totalled 13,279 volumes last year. Among Fund staff members who gave books to the Library were the late J. Marcus Fleming, D. Boushehri and Ian Bowen. In May G.K. Hall and Company of Boston published two important works: "The Developing Areas: A Classified Bibliography of the Joint Bank-Fund Library", and the first supplement to "Economics and Finance, Index to Periodical Articles" indexed by the Library. A list of current periodicals received by the Library was distributed to all Fund and World Bank divisions in August; this is designed to permit staff members to order periodicals by telephone or place their names on routing lists for specific periodicals. A companion volume, "Subject Headings Used in the Joint Bank-Fund Library", is in preparation. Also, a Serial Record has been established in the Library to bring under bibliographic control the large numbers of periodic reports issued by banks, government departments and other organizations. Mr. Olsen says that staff members with questions on the Library or its operation are welcome at all times to telephone members of the Library staff or to visit its premises at 1800 G Street to seek the answers to their needs.

MRS. CARMEN LOPEZ PORTILLO, the Mexican First Lady, visited the Fund on February 15 during her husband's official visit to the United States. On her arrival in the building, Mrs. Lopez Portillo was greeted by William Dale, Acting Managing Director; Roberto Guarnieri, Executive Director; Jorge Del Canto, Director, Western Hemisphere Department; William Avery, Assistant Director for Administrative Services; and Ruben Azocar of the Information Office. Also present for the occasion were the Mexican nationals among the Fund staff.

THE GRAPHICS WORKS OF JORG SCHULDHESS, the Swiss artist, made up the February show of the Art Society, under the patronage of the Swiss Embassy. The opening on February 1 was attended by the Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. Raymond Probst, and Mrs. Probst; Mr. Alfred Hohl, the Minister at the Embassy; and Mr. Francis Piarica, Cultural Affairs Counsellor.

Born Jorg Schulthess in Basle 36 years ago to an artist father, Mr. Schuldhess worked in a quarry and trained for a middle-class profession, while dreaming of a future as a sculptor. He followed such diverse occupations as jazz musician in Paris and boxer and bicycle racer in Italy before turning to art as a full-time career after a near-fatal fall from a scaffold. His urge to travel and to experience the lives of people in developing countries led him to Africa, Egypt, Israel during the 1967 war, and to the Indian sub-continent, where he witnessed the establishment of Bangladesh. He then went to the Indian Ocean islands of Lamu and Manda, where the poverty of the inhabitants prompted him to change his name to the "Schuld-hess" (Schuld: guilt) which he has used ever since. As is apparent in his often shocking graphics, which deliberately eschew conventional prettiness, his experiences have been a major force in Mr. Schuldhess' life and art: it is no accident that among his works are illustrations for Rimbaud's "Une Saison en Enfer". Further information on the works, which were on display until the end of February, may be obtained from Sigrid Vollerthun, ext. 4875.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES has issued an invitation to Fund staff members to visit its new Museum of Modern Art of Latin America. In his invitation, Rafael Sarda, Public Relations Coordinator of the Museum, said:"As an employee of one of our fellow organizations you will take pride in seeing the richness and diversity of Latin American art as represented in this unique collection...We look forward to welcoming you." Located in the restored annex building at 201 - 18th Street, N.W., the Museum houses the more than

New Members of Fund Staff


Mr. Kadhim A. Al-Eyd
Iraq - OED


Mr. S. Pablo Chiara
Uruguay - ADM


Mr. Luis L. Conde
Dominican Republic - WHD


Mr. Claudio DeBlois
Venezuela - OED


Miss Haideh Djavaheri
Iran - OED


Mrs. Alicia A. Duarte
U.S.A. - WHD


Mr. Antti K. Juusela
Finland - TRE


Mr. Kyung Woo Kim
Korea - OED


Miss Maria L.T. Pintoy
Philippines - MED


Mr. Saad E. Shabrawi
Egypt - OED


Mr. Krikor Tahmazian
Lebanon - SEC

200 paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints that make up the permanent collection of the OAS; acquired over a period of 20 years, it was not until the Museum opened in October 1976 that these materials became available for viewing by the general public. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; special tours for groups may be arranged by calling 381-8381.

ALL NON-U.S. STAFF MEMBERS are reminded of the importance of maintaining a valid national passport and valid G-IV visa (if applicable). The Transportation Section will assist in completing the necessary renewal forms and processing applications. However, it is the staff members' duty to advise the Transportation Section of the expiration date of their passports and G-IV visas. U.S. nationals who plan to travel abroad this year should obtain passport applications at the Transportation Section, room 1-120, ext. 3145.

THE NEW EDITOR of Finance and Development is Samuel Katz of the United States. He succeeds Ian Bowen of Australia, who served three years in the position. Mr. Katz is Associate Professor of International Finance at Georgetown University, and Director, Georgetown University Bankers Forum. From 1948 to 1974, he was a staff member and Advisor, Division of International Finance, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He has also had visiting appointments at universities in the United States and the United Kingdom. He is the author of several monographs and articles on international monetary affairs. His office is room 13-209, ext. 3866.

COLETTE LEROY has succeeded Carole Devillers as President of the International Camera Club. Miss Leroy, a member of the Balance of Payments Division of the Research Department, was one of the original charter members of the ICC upon its foundation, and has served with the Club as competition secretary, second vice president in charge of competitions, and chairman of special events. Miss Devillers has resigned from the World Bank to pursue her photographic career in West Africa.

30 YEAR STAFF. In January, Mr. Robert C. Carter, Chief Mail Clerk, Secretary's Department, commemorated thirty years of service with the Fund. In February, Mrs. Sue H. Cannon, Administrative Officer, Bureau of Language Services, Mr. E. Walter Robichek, Deputy Director, Western Hemisphere Department, and Mr. George E. Bishop, Assistant Secretary for Communications, Secretary's Department, commemorated thirty years of service with the Fund.

MARRIAGES. Mr. Ke-young Chu, Research Department, was married on November 30 to Miss Imsoon Park; Mr. José P. Delgado, Administration Department, was married on December 19 to Miss Dolores Maria Garcia Morales; Ms. Josefina Baez, IMF Institute, was married on December 23 to Mr. John Waterston;and Ms. Luz Maria Paraud, Bureau of Language Services, was married on January 20 to Mr. Alfredo Gutierrez.

BABIES. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born on October 30, 1976 to Mr. and Mrs. George Kopits; a daughter, Yvette, was born on January 12 to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin J. Placeres (Lola); a son, Felix, was born on January 13 to Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Galbis; and a son, Benet, was born on January 21 to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Turnbull.

RESIGNATIONS IN JANUARY. Mr. Luis Antonio Aspra, Miss Karen L. Davis, Mrs. Erica Erim, Miss Maria C. Ford, Mrs. Carol George, Mr. Toma Gudac, Ms. Susan Montgomery, and Mr. Mohamad Wasfy.

MISS RALLA CHRISTIE, a secretary in the Fiscal Affairs Department, retired from the Fund at the end of February. Miss Christie came to the Fund in March 1965 from the Embassy of Australia, where she had worked in the office of the Military Attaché, joining FAD as a secretary. Following her retirement, Miss Christie will return to her native Australia by ship, a journey which will, in thirty days, take her to Hawaii, Christmas Island, French Polynesia, Tonga, Tasmania and New Zealand before reaching Melbourne. The house in which she will live, 28 miles from Melbourne in the Dardenongs, is just now being built. The fulfillment of many years of planning, its designer is Miss Christie herself. One feature of its design, she noted, is a guest room - which she hopes will be frequently occupied by Fund friends on their way to and from missions in the Pacific. Prominent features of its location are a golf course - which Miss Christie hopes to make much use of - and a mountain view, which will provide subject matter for the paintings she will now have more time to paint.

MR. EDWARD AROWOLO, Chief, East African Division, died suddenly on February 21. A citizen of Nigeria, Mr. Arowolo joined the Fund in 1964 as an Economist in the Fiscal Affairs Department. He transferred to the African Department in 1966. He was appointed Assistant Chief, West African Division, in 1973, Advisor in 1975 and Division Chief in 1976. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Florence Arowolo, and three daughters. Funeral services were held on Thursday, February 24, and burial will take place in Nigeria.

APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS in the State Department/USIA Recreation Association should be directed to Joan Pugh, ext. 3767, room 4-320, who has succeeded Cecilia Poppe as DSRA coordinator for Fund staff members. Checks for annual membership, in the amount of $7.00, should be made out to the "IMF Staff Association". All those joining the DSRA or renewing their memberships, should request and fill out application forms before sending in their membership fees. DSRA has a number of charter flights and holidays planned for the coming summer. These include return flights of varying lengths to Frankfurt and London, as well as to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Also planned are package trips to France, Greece, Italy, Scandinavia, Switzerland and the U.S.S.R., together with vacations in such exotic Asian spots as Tahiti and India. Information is available from DSRA (tel. 632-1610).

STAFF NEWS

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